

April 8, 1965

Dr. Julius Richmond  
Office of Economic Opportunity  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Dr. Richmond:

I should not have been surprised when your name came up in a conversation with Mr. Shriver, concerning the program "Head Start" which he outlined briefly to me. Quite apart from the obvious social benefits of such a program at an operational level, the investigational aspects were self evident; and I was very pleased to learn from Mr. Shriver that a good deal of emphasis was to be placed on this. However, as far as I could determine in a brief conversation there was no one who explicitly labeled himself a geneticist on your advisory panel; and if this is the case, it may leave open the chance that some very useful possibilities have been overlooked. While other considerations might bring the same kinds of questions to the fore, I wonder if there might not still be some time to discuss it further. The main thing I had in mind was to ask you whether you had a sample of the draft questionnaire ready as yet and whether you would have any interest in my commenting on it. I don't travel very much to Washington myself, and the alternative suggestion, about which you could do what you thought best, might be to contact, say, Dr. Victor McKusick at Johns Hopkins.

My conversation with Mr. Shriver was brief enough that we may easily have overlooked another source for the same kind of concerns; and if so, I would apologize for wasting both our time in writing this letter. The kind of data that might be most useful to obtain would be those relating to possible correlations between prevalence of common diseases and family size as well as other aspects of performance and family size. This information would, of course, be the most useful if confounding with socio-economic stratification could be accounted for.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL:lj

Richmond J.